State Government has further informed that static guards have been established at pockets/villages inhabited by minority families and Area Domination is also being ensured in minority community pockets.

Peace talks with Kashmiri militants

4262. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have contingency plans to improve the peace talks plan with Kashmiri militants in view of the recent murder of Ex. Hizbul Commander Abdul Mazeed Dar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of Padmanabhan-Hizb talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Shri N.N. Vohra has been appointed as the Government of India's representative to initiate and carry forward a dialogue with the elected representatives, various organizations and concerned individuals in the State of J & K and not with any specific individual or organization in the State.

(c) Shri Vohra (not Shri Padmanabhan) has had no talks with the Hizb.

Terrorists arrested under Pota in J&K

†4263. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some terrorists had been arrested till February, 2003 in Jammu and Kashmir under Prevention of Terrorism Act;

(b) if so, the total number thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the charges levelled under the said Act have now been withdrawn against a number of terrorists out of these; and

(d) if so, the number of persons against whom charges under Prevention Of Terrorism Act had been withdrawn togetherwith the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) As reported by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir 168 persons had been arrested under POTA in the State till February, 2003.

(c) and (d) State Government has reported that in some rare cases under POTA offences are not proved during investigation. In such cases either other penal laws are invoked or benefit under section 169 given to the arestee.

Increase in naxalites incidents

†4264. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for increase in incidents of naxalites in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra; and

(b) whether amount provided by Central Government from time to time for tackling naxalism and strengthening the police force has been properly and completely utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) As per available information, the reasons for increase in naxalite activities in Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra are primarily on account of extensive militarization by the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DSZC) of the CPML-PW. DSZC has inducted new cadres and organized military trailing camps. There has been a marginal decrease in the number of incidents in Madhya Pradesh in 2002 compared to 2001.

(b) Financial assistance for combating extremism in the Left Wing extremism affected States is provided through the Scheme of reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure.

Communal riots

†4265. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) number of communal riots erupted during the last five years and loss of life and property in such riots;

(b) incidents of communal tension and riots during the last five years in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra and loss of life and property in such incidents; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.